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BERBERA PORT FACILITIES

SOMALI REPUBLIC

1. SIGNIFICANCE: A DEEPWATER PORT IS BEING CONSTRUCTED AT BERBERA AS PART OF THE SOVIET AID PROGRAM IN THE SOMALI REPUBLIC.
2. REMARKS: PRIOR TO 1965 THE BERBERA PORT WAS CONSIDERED A MINOR LANDING AREA WITH FACILITIES CAPABLE OF SERVING ONLY SMALL CRAFT. LARGER VESSELS COULD BE OFFLOADED WITH THE AID OF LIGHTERS.
3. LOCATION: ON THE GULF OF ADEN, AT 1027N 04501E.
4. COLLATERAL/COMINT: WORK ON THE BERBERA PORT AREA WAS BEGUN BY SOVIET TECHNICIANS IN LATE 1964 BUT UNTIL RECENTLY PROGRESS HAD BEEN SLOW. COMPARISON PHOTOGRAPHY OF OCTOBER 1964 SHOWS CONSIDERABLE DREDGING HAVING TAKEN PLACE SINCE THEN. WHEN COMPLETED THE PORT SHOULD BE CAPABLE OF HANDLING 200,000 TONS OF CARGO ANNUALLY. IT WILL HAVE PIERS FOR BERTHING 10,000-TON SHIPS WITH A MAXIMUM DRAFT OF APPROXIMATELY 30 FT, ONE PIER FOR COASTAL BOATS, SHIPS REPAIR FACILITIES, A RADIO STATION, A HOTEL, AND

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OTHER FACILITIES. RECENT REPORTS INDICATE THE USSR PLANS TO INSTALL SOME RADAR EQUIPMENT AT THIS PORT (AND IN AT LEAST FOUR OTHER LOCATIONS IN THE COUNTRY). THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN REPORTS CONCERNING CONSTRUCTION OF A SOVIET NAVAL REFUELING STATION AT MAIT, APPROXIMATELY 135 N.M. EAST OF BERBERA.

AN ARMS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SOMALI REPUBLIC AND THE USSR WAS CONCLUDED IN OCTOBER 1963 WHICH PROVIDED FOR THE TRAINING OF SOMALI OFFICER AND NCO CADRES, AND THE DELIVERY OF ARMAMENTS. MILITARY SHIPMENTS DELIVERED SINCE 1963 HAVE INCLUDED MIG AIRCRAFT, VARIOUS TYPES OF RADAR AND RADIO EQUIPMENT, AT LEAST TWO POLUCHAT CLASS COASTAL PATROL BOATS (OBSERVED AT BERBERA IN JUNE 1965), TANKS, AMMUNITION, AND ROCKETS OF THE TYPE USED ON MIG-15 OR MIG-17 AIRCRAFT. NORMAL PORT OF ENTRY FOR THESE SHIPMENTS HAS BEEN MOGADISCIO, BUT DELIVERIES HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE AT BERBERA, UARSCIECH, AND CHISIMAIO, UTILIZING PONTOONS.

5. NEGATION DATE:

PORT CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY HAD NOT BEGUN IN OCTOBER 1964 AS EVIDENCED BY PHOTO ATTACHMENTS TO DODIIR 5899034264.

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6. MISSION READOUT: A SMALL HARBOR IS UNDERGOING EXPANSION BY DREDGING. FACILITIES INCLUDE A LARGE FINGER PIER, A "T-HEAD" PIER, A MARGINAL WHARF, AND A TRANSSHIPPING AREA. A CONSIDERABLE CHANGE HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE INNER HARBOR SINCE OCTOBER 1964. A DREDGE HAS BEEN EMPLOYED TO REMOVE LARGE QUANTITIES OF SILT AND SAND TO THE NORTH OF THE TRANSSHIPPING AREA.

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